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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 002824

SIPDIS

PASS TO DOJ - GREGORY STEVENS  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CJAN](#) [KCRM](#) [CASC](#) [HO](#) [MR MORRIS](#) [ARNOLD](#) [FREDERICK](#)  
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION OF ARNOLD FREDERICK MORRIS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 01608

1. SUMMARY: ARNOLD FREDERICK MORRIS HAS AN OUTSTANDING ARREST WARRANT IN THE U.S. FOR CONSPIRACY, ILLEGAL CONCEALMENT OF ASSETS, MAKING FRAUDULENT AND FALSE STATEMENTS, AND CONSPIRACY TO LAUNDER MONEY. ON MARCH 18, 1992, MR. MORRIS FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP BY CONCEALING HIS U.S. CRIMINAL HISTORY IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID EXTRADITION, SINCE THE HONDURAN CONSTITUTION FORBIDS EXTRADITION OF HONDURAN NATIONALS. NEVERTHELESS, ON MARCH 7, 1995, THE USG OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF ARNOLD FREDERICK MORRIS. ON AUGUST 16, 1996, THE HONDURAN ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUESTED REVOCATION OF MR. MORRIS' HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP. SUBSEQUENTLY, MORRIS APPEALED THIS DECISION THROUGH THE HONDURAN COURT SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A PREVIOUS REPORTING CABLE POST REPORTED THAT THERE WERE THREE ACTIONS PENDING IN THE HONDURAN COURTS WITH RESPECT TO MR. MORRIS' CASE:

- AN APPEAL FILED BY MR. MORRIS WITH THE SUPREME COURT ON MARCH 25, 2002, ARGUING THAT THE REQUEST FOR THE CANCELLATION OF HIS HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND NOT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

- AN APPEAL FILED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002, WITH THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OBJECTING THE RULING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA. THE SAN PEDRO SULA COURT HAD SUSPENDED THE CANCELLATION OF HIS NATIONALITY WHILE ITS ACQUISITION WAS BEING CHALLENGED.

- AN APPEAL FILED BY MR. MORRIS ON MARCH 5, 2003, FOR INTERIM EQUITABLE RELIEF IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE EXECUTION OF THE RULING RENDERED BY ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA ON OCTOBER 24, 2002, AND REJECTED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL ON JUNE 9, 2003.

3. On November 18, 2003 Post sent a request for a status report to the Ministry of Government and Justice. On November 28, 2003, Post received a response through Official Note number 1456-DSG0 dated November 25, 2003, stating the following:

- Regarding the November 29, 2002 appeal filed by the Solicitor General with the Court of Appeals of the Administrative Court (File number 160-2002), objecting to the ruling of the Administrative Court in San Pedro Sula, which suspended the cancellation of Mr. Morris' Honduran nationality while the acquisition was being challenged: the Ministry informed Post that the Court of Appeals of the Administrative Court ordered that a judicial communication be sent to the Circuit County Court of Pinellas, Florida, requesting information about the results of the sentence it imposed for a minor offense involving violence (for example, time served, parole, compliance with conditions of parole, etc.).

- REGARDING THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2000, APPEAL FILED BY MR. MORRIS WITH THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT CONCERNING THE REPOSITION OF THE RULING RENDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA, CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE (013-2000-SPS): THE MINISTRY INFORMED POST THAT ON OCTOBER 10, 2003, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA RULED IN FAVOR OF MR. MORRIS. HOWEVER, ON NOVEMBER 5, 2003, THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FILED AN APPEAL.

- THE MINISTRY'S RESPONSE DID NOT MENTION THE MARCH 25, 2002 SUPREME COURT APPEAL FILED BY MR. MORRIS, WHICH ARGUED THAT THE REQUEST FOR THE CANCELLATION OF HIS HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND NOT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (FILE NUMBER 650-02).

4. POST WILL CONTINUE TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE AS THEY ARISE.

